

REMARKS

The Non-Final Office Action (hereinafter the Action) mailed February 9, 2006 has been reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-18, 20 and 22-31 remain pending in this application and currently stand rejected. Claims 1, 16, and 27 have been amended to further clarify the claimed subject matter. No new matter is added.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Action rejected claims 1-2, 4, 6-18, 20, and 22-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,907,324 to Larson, *et al.* (hereinafter *Larson*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,631,904 to Fitser (hereinafter *Fitser*) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,192,123 to Grunsted, *et al.* (hereinafter *Grunsted*). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of the claims.

Amended claim 1 recites, inter alia, "after allocating the conference bridge port to set up the conference, extracting a current participant communication address from the conference logistics", "if the participant profile data does not include the current participant communication address extracted from the conference logistics, then automatically updating the extracted participant communication address extracted from the conference logistics with the current participant communication address from the participant profile data associated with the participant communication address", and "automatically initiating a connection to the conference based on the current participant communication address." The amendments are supported by the Specification (page 3, lines 27-30; page 4, lines 14-24; and page 9-17).

Larson discloses a method of saving, retrieving, and dynamically establishing a plurality of conference parameters. (*Larson*, Abstract, col. 4, lines 43-45) More specifically, *Larson* discloses storing conference characteristics and parameters into a persistent object. The characteristics include conference session information, participant information, application information, document information. Conference session information includes the name of a conference, a description of the objective of the

conference, a reservation number, a scheduled start time, a planned duration of the conference, a maximum number of participants, and other relevant information identifying and/or describing the conference. Participant information includes a name, an address, a call-out number, a call-in number, a password, authentication procedure, an initial status, a most recent status, and preferred color priorities for each of the participants. A call-in number is a bridge number that a participant dials to join a conference session. A call-out number is a participant's telephone number that a MCU dials to connect a participant to a conference. Status indicates whether a participant is active or inactive in the conference. (*Larson*, col. 1 line 58 through col. 2 line 11)

Thus, *Larson* does not teach or suggest "extracting a current participant communication address from the conference logistics", "if the participant profile data does not include the current participant communication address extracted from the conference logistics, then automatically updating the extracted participant communication address extracted from the conference logistics with the current participant communication address from the participant profile data", or "automatically initiating a connection to the conference based on the current participant communication address."

Furthermore, *Larson* specifically recites "the participant profile 76 may also store an initial status and a most recent status of a participant. The status fields may be a simple Boolean field indicating whether or not a participant is active or not active. The most recent status of the participants may be used to determine which of the participants should be automatically connected when a conference is dynamically resumed." (*Larson*, col. 7, lines 58-64) Hence, *Larson* does not even disclose using multiple communication addresses for a participant and determining a current communication address from the addresses for the participant.

Fitser describes a method for automatically establishing a conference call to a preselected list of prospective participants to the conference call. (*Fitser*, Abstract, col. 1, lines 46-50) *Fitser* also does not teach or suggest the elements of amended claim 1, as recited above. In fact, *Fitser* describes following identification and verification of the

authority of a subscriber, the subscriber being provide the option of placing a call, scheduling a call, creating a group identifier an a list of participants, or modifying an existing group. However, *Fitser* still fails to teach or suggest using multiple communication addresses for a participant and determining a current communication address from the addresses for the participant. The method described by *Fitser* is completely distinct and different from the method claimed by the Applicants in amended claim 1.

Finally, *Grunsted* discloses a process for initiating a telephone call that includes receiving a network request identifying a telephone number and an account number; retrieving from the database a telephone number associated with the account number; and signaling a telephone switch to place a call connecting instruments corresponding to the telephone number from the request and the telephone number retrieved from the database. (*Grunsted*, Abstract, col. 3 lines 1-7) While *Grunsted* describes a "call me now" function as a customer service provided by telephone service system that also permits customers to make telephone calls, store/modify phone books, make conference calls, and store/modify conference call groups, i.e., multiple telephone numbers for frequent conference calls, it does not teach, suggest, or describe using multiple communication addresses for a participant and determining a current communication address from the addresses for the participant in establishing a conference call.

Thus, *Larson*, *Fitser*, and *Grunsted* fail to teach or suggest individually or in combination features of the Applicants' amended claim 1. Amended claim 1 is therefore in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Amended claim 16 includes similar features as in amended claims 1. Therefore, amended claim 16 is allowable for at least the same reasons discussed above. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2, 4, and 6-15 depend from amended independent claim 1. Claims 17, 18, 20, 22-26, and 28-31 depend from amended independent claim 16. Thus, dependent claims 1-2, 4, 6-18, 20, 22-26, and 28-31 are allowable for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to amended claims 1 and 16. Claim 27 has been amended

into an independent form that includes all of the features of previous claim 27 and its base claim 16. Therefore, based on the foregoing, the rejection of claims 1-2, 4, 6-18, 20, and 22-31 should also be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application and allowance of the claims at an early date are hereby solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or comments concerning this matter, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's undersigned attorney at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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